

September 23, 2020

Wood File: BX10684

Natural Resources Conservation Board
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Attention: Ms. Carina Weisbach

**Re: NRCB Application No. LA20014
Rebuttal: Proposed Layer Barn on SE¼ 25-011-28 W4M
Hutterian Brethren Church of Granum**

This letter has been prepared in response to the *Notice of Filed Request for Board Review and Rebuttal Opportunity* letter dated September 18, 2020.

Information Session

Granum Colony and a number of community members attended a council meeting September 9, 2020. At this meeting, the Granum Colony informed Council of their intent to construct a new Colony (including the Layer Barn in discussion) on S½ 25-11-28 W4M. There were extensive discussions held during the meeting, and then between Colony and community members in the parking lot following the meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, the Granum Colony also arranged for a tour of the layer facility at the Greenwood Colony, and this tour occurred on September 22, 2020, and included Allan & Judy Minor and Byron Westwell. It was understood that these three community members were representing the complainants. Granum Colony extends this offer to the remaining neighbours to tour a constructed Layer Barn showcasing the new technologies and the general absence of smell.

Environmental Concerns

A Wetland Assessment and Wildlife / Historical Resources Review were completed prior to the Part 2 application to the NRCB. Application was made to the Water Act July 20, 2020 and is pending review. No construction will occur until final approval is received.

Granum Colony holds a large land base for spreading manure. Manure will not be spread on SE¼ 32-11-27 W4M or any land base that is experiencing flooding conditions. All regulations outlined in sections 24 and 25 SAR, Agricultural Operation Practices Act will be followed.

A number of surveys and maps were provided to the review officer for her review showing the elevations along Meadow Creek. This survey was completed by a surveyor registered with the Alberta Society of Surveying and Mapping using Alberta Survey Control Markers (ASCM). ASCM 22822 was utilized in this survey and has an elevation of 992.777 referencing the Canadian Geodetic Vertical Datum 1928. Comments from a complainant saying the elevations are not “real elevations” are unfounded.



The previous owner of the land had a house and numerous buildings in the same area as the Layer Barn. This owner reported never having flooding issues, and Wood's historical air photo review supports this. The red "X" on the following air photo shows the appropriate location of the proposed Layer Barn.



Neighbours

A least three of thirteen complaints own or are involved directly with a CFO located between the Layer Barn Location and the Town of Claresholm. MD of Willow Creek advertises itself as "Choice Farming and Ranching". It should be expected that agricultural use continues to occur within the area.

It is noted that one complainant says he / she live within 0.5 miles of the Layer Barn. His / her house is located more than a mile away.

Water Supply

The layer barn Granum Colony is constructing will require 401,500 gallons per year. A water study has been completed, and all landowners with a water well registered within 1.6km of the Layer Barn received a letter mailed August 17, 2020. An adamant and repeated response of "it is none of your business" was received from a member of the community who filed a request for board review with the NRCB. This member of the community also provided the information that several people who received this letter spoke with him directly, and they all felt the same way. No other responses were received.

Granum Colony currently holds an unused License No. 1315 for 50 acre feet (13,566,403 imperial gallons) to withdraw water from Meadow Creek.

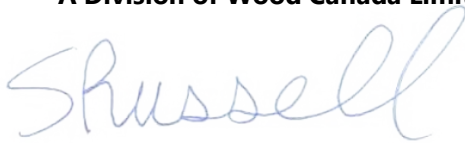
A new licence is not required for the Layer Barn; however, after approval is received from the NRCB Granum Colony may decide to apply for groundwater rights. Discussions June 15, 2020 with a Hydrogeologist with Alberta Environment and Parks has confirmed that groundwater rights are available in the Oldman River Basin pending the review of completed water study.

Conclusion

Granum Colony appreciates the NRCB's engagement in this project. Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Yours truly,

**Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions,
A Division of Wood Canada Limited**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'SRussell'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of 'S' and 'R' being prominent.

Stacey Russell SR/WA.
Geomatics Technician (Eng)
Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions

Reviewed by:
John Lobbezoo, P.Eng.
Lethbridge-Medicine Hat Lead